



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **State Health Department Provides Tips for Fireworks Safety**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health is urging residents to use fireworks safely this Fourth of July, according to Diana Read, Injury Prevention Program director.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, hospital emergency rooms in the U.S. in 2006 treated about 9,200 injuries due to fireworks, including serious burns and eye injuries. About 36 percent of the injuries were to children younger than 15. Firecrackers caused the greatest number of injuries, with sparklers second and rockets third.

The Department of Health recommends the following fireworks safety tips:

- Do not allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Light fireworks only on a smooth, flat surface away from buildings, dry leaves and flammable materials.
- Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Keep a bucket of water handy in case of a malfunction or fire.

“One of the most important ways to keep children safe is to supervise them during all Fourth of July activities,” Read said. “Taking care to follow a few simple safety tips and keeping children at a safe distance from fireworks can help to make this holiday enjoyable for everyone.”

For more information about fireworks safety, contact Diana Read, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4537.

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